

Morris, Alexander

From: WEBMASTER, DOE
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2012 3:23 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: Form submission from: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request Form

Submitted on Fri, 12/07/2012 - 15:22
Submitted by anonymous user: [redacted]

DEC 10 2012 02

--Contact information--

Name: Erin Richey
Organization: Engineering News-Record
Address:

[redacted]

Fax number:

Phone number:

Email address: [redacted]

ACADEMIC/EDUCATIONAL NEWS MEDIA
NO FREE PRESS

--Reasonably Describe Records--

Description:

If it is in any way aggregated and retrievable, or could be reasonably created, I would like data regarding the use of individual surety bonds on construction contracts, not including those for residential housing, completed directly with the Department of Energy in the last 20 years.

I would prefer a database with rows corresponding to each contract for which an individual surety was used. If a data set can be compiled for this request, I'd appreciate the opportunity to discuss the structure of the data with whoever would be responsible for running the query.

(If such data is not actively collected and aggregated within the Department of Energy, or could not be reasonably created, I request physical or digital copies of all SF28 forms filed with the Department of Energy in connection with construction contracts of the past 20 years, not including those for residential housing, without redaction. If redaction is necessary due to privacy or security exclusions, I request that reasons for the redaction be included in the response to my request. Specify preferred form or format: Database, spreadsheet, or scanned PDFs if only copies of SF28s are available.

--Type of requestor--

Select a description of yourself and the purpose of the request to help determine your category for assessing fees: A representative of the news media and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Affiliation: Engineering News-Record
Type of media: Magazine

[redacted]

HO-2013-00274-5

--Fees and waivers--

Please select the statement that applies: I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

--Waiver factors--

The subject of the request: Records of individual surety bonds used in connection with federal non-residential construction contracts, verifiable data on which does not currently exist in the public realm.

The informative value of the information to be disclosed: The Senate is currently considering H.R. 3534, which has the potential to restrict individual surety bond usage in federal contracting substantially. We want to measure the potential impact of the bill using official government data, rather than

estimates from special interest groups, as our readers consider whether to support the bill.

Contribution to an understanding by the general public: At the moment, no data on the use of individual surety bonds in federal

contracting exists for the public to reliably consider while the Senate reviews H.R. 3534. This publication has the potential to fill this gap and inform readers across the United States, if we acquire the information.

The significance of the contribution to public understanding: This is likely to contribute significantly because no such reliable public information on individual surety bond usage in federal construction contracting exists.

The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: As a member of the news media, my primary interest is in informing the public. Any commercial interest in information requested by media entities regarding research for publication has been negated in court precedent.

The primary interest in disclosure: Our primary interest is as a news media entity to inform the public.

--Expedited processing--

Justification: an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists (this option available ONLY for requesters primarily engaged in disseminating information).

Please provide your specific justification for expedited

processing: I am a member of the news media requesting this information to disseminate to the general public to inform them of the potential ramifications of H.R. 3534 as they consider whether to support the bill. No such public, verifiable data exists as of yet, and the true relevance of this data is in publication before it passes or fails a Senate vote.